THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

OF

THE SOCIETY

FOR

BETTERING THE CONDITION

AND

INCREASING THE COMFORTS

OF THE POOR.

VOL. V.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR BETTERING THE CONDITION AND INCREASING THE COMFORTS OF THE POOR.

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March 1806.

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No. CXXVIII.

Extract from an Account of the Parish Schools in Scotland. *By* James Currie, *M. D.*

By an act of the King (James VI.) and Privy Council, of the 10*th* December 1616, it was recommended to the bishops to *deale and travel* with the heritors (landed proprietors) and inhabitants of the several parishes in their respective dioceses, towards the fixing upon "some certain, solid, and sure course" for settling and entertaining a school in each parish. This was ratified by a statute of Charles I. (in the year 1633,) which empowered the Bishop, with the consent of the heritors of a parish, or of a majority of the inhabitants if the heritors refused to attend the meeting, to assess every plough of land (that is every farm in proportion to the number of ploughs upon it) with a

certain sum for establishing a school. This was an ineffectual provision, as depending on the consent and pleasure of the heritors and inhabitants. Therefore a new order of things was introduced by an act passed in 1646, which obliges the heritors and minister of each parish to meet and assess the several heritors with the requisite sum for building a school-house, and to elect a school-master, and modify a salary for him in all time to come. The salary is ordered not to be under one hundred, nor above two hundred merks, that is, in our present sterling money, not under 5*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* nor above 11*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; and the assessment is to be laid on the land in the same proportion as it is rated for the support of the clergy, and as it regulates the payment of the land tax. But in case the heritors of any parish, or the majority of them, should fail to discharge this duty, then the persons forming what is called the committee of supply of the county (consisting of the principal landholders) or any five of them, are authorised by the statute to impose the assessment

instead of them, on the representation of the presbytery in which the parish is situated. To secure the choice of a proper teacher, the right of election of the heritors, by a statute passed in the year 1693, is made subject to the review and controul of the presbytery of the district; who have the examination of the person proposed, committed to them, both as to his qualifications as a teacher, and as to his proper deportment in the office when settled in it. The election of the heritors is therefore only a presentment of a person, for the approbation of the presbytery; who, if they find him unfit, may declare his incapacity, and thus oblige them to elect anew.

The legal salary of the school-master was not inconsiderable at the time it was fixed; but by the decrease in the value of money, it is now certainly inadequate to its object; and it is painful to observe, that the landholders of Scotland resisted the humble application of the schoolmasters to the legislature for its increase a few years ago. The

number of parishes in Scotland is 877 ; and if we allow the salary of a schoolmaster in each to be, on an average, seven pounds sterling, the amount of the legal provision will be 6,139*l.* sterling. If we suppose the wages paid by the scholars to amount to twice this sum, which is probably beyond the truth, the total of the expenses among 1,526,492 persons, (the whole population of Scotland,) of this most important establishment, will be 18,417*l.* But on this, as well as on other subjects respecting Scotland, accurate information may soon be expected from Sir John Sinclair's Analysis of his Statistics, which will complete the immortal monument he has reared to his patriotism.

The benefit arising in Scotland from the instruction of the poor, was soon felt ; and by an act of the British parliament, 4 Geo. I. chap. vi. it is enacted, " that of the monies arising from the sale of the Scottish estates forfeited in the rebellion of 1715, 20,000*l.* sterling shall be converted into a capital

stock, the interest of which shall be laid out in erecting and maintaining schools in the Highlands." The society for promoting Christian Knowledge, incorporated in 1709, have applied a large part of their fund for the same purpose. By their report, 1*st* May 1795, the annual sum employed by them, in supporting their schools in the Highlands and Islands, was 391*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* in which are taught the English language, reading and writing, and the principles of religion. The schools of the society are additional to the legal schools, which, from the great extent of many of the Highland parishes were found insufficient. Besides these established schools, the lower classes of the people in Scotland, where the parishes are large, often combine together, and establish private schools of their own, at one of which it was Burns received the principal part of his education. So convinced, indeed, are the poor people of Scotland, by experience, of the benefit of instruction to their children, that, tho they may often find it difficult to feed and clothe

them, some kind of school instruction they almost always procure them.

OBSERVATIONS.

The influence of the school establishment of Scotland on the peasantry of that country, seems to have decided by experience a question of legislation of the utmost importance—whether a system of national instruction for the poor be favorable to morals and good government. In the year 1698, Fletcher of Saltoun declared as follows: "There are at this day, in Scotland, two hundred thousand people begging from door to door. And tho the number of them be perhaps double to what it was formerly, by reason of this present great distress, (a famine then prevailed,) yet in all times there have been about one hundred thousand of those vagabonds, who have lived without any regard or subjection either to the laws of the land, or even those of God and nature; fathers incestuously accompanying with their own daughters, the son with the mother, and the

brother with the sister." He goes on to say, that no magistrate ever could discover that they had ever been baptized, or in what way one in a hundred went out of the world. He accuses them as frequently guilty of robbery, and sometimes of murder: "In years of plenty," says he, "many thousands of them meet together in the mountains, where they feast and riot for many days; and at country weddings, markets, burials, and other public occasions, they are to be seen, both men and women, perpetually drunk, cursing, blaspheming, and fighting together."* This high-minded statesman, of whom it is said by a contemporary, "that he would lose his life readily to save his country, and would not do a base thing to serve it," thought the evil so great, that he proposed as a remedy the revival of domestic slavery, according to the practice of his adored republics in the classic ages. A better remedy has been found, which in the silent lapse of a century has proved effectual. The

* Political Works of Andrew Fletcher, octavo, London, 1737, p. 144.

statute of 1696, the noble legacy of the Scottish Parliament to their country, began soon after this to operate; and happily, as the minds of the poor received instruction, the Union opened new channels of industry, and new fields of action to their view.

At the present day there is perhaps no country in Europe, in which, in proportion to its population, so small a number of crimes fall under the chastisement of the criminal law, as Scotland. We have the best authority for asserting, that on an average of thirty years preceding the year 1797, the executions in that division of the island did not amount to six annually; and one quarter sessions for the town of Manchester only, has sent, according to Mr. Hume, more felons to the plantations than all the judges of Scotland usually do in the space of a year.* It might appear invidious to attempt a calculation of the many thousand individuals in Manchester and its

* Hume's Commentaries on the Laws of Scotland. Introd. p. 50.

vcinity who can neither read nor write. A majority of those who suffer the punishment of death for their crimes in every part of England, are, it is believed, in this miserable state of ignorance.

There is now a legal provision for parochial schools, or rather for a school in each of the different townships into which the country is divided, in several of the northern states of North America. They are, however, of recent origin there, excepting in New England, where they were established in the last century, probably about the same time* as in Scotland, and by the same religious sect. In the protestant cantons of Switzerland, the peasantry have the advantage of similar schools, tho established and endowed in a different manner. This is also the case in certain districts in England, particularly in the northern parts of Yorkshire and of Lancashire, and

* It was passed in 1692. A copy of the Act is inserted in the Third Volume of the Society's Reports, Appendix, No. 10.

in the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland.

A law, providing for the instruction of the poor, was passed by the parliament of Ireland; but the fund has been diverted from its purpose, and the measure intirely frustrated.

The similarity of character between the Swiss and the Scotch, and between the Scotch and the people of New England, can scarcely be overlooked. That it arises in a great measure from the similarity of their institutions for instruction, cannot be questioned. It is no doubt increased by physical causes. With a superior degree of instruction each of these nations possesses a country that may be said to be sterile, in the neighbourhood of countries comparatively rich. Hence emigrations, and the other effects on conduct and character, which such circumstances naturally produce. This subject is in a high degree curious. The points of dissimilarity between these nations might be traced to

their causes also, and the whole investigation would perhaps admit of an approach to certainty in our conclusions, to which such inquiries seldom lead. How much superior in morals, in intellect, and in happiness, the peasantry of those parts of England are, who have opportunities of instruction, to the same class in other situations, those who inquire into the subject will speedily discover. The peasantry of Westmoreland, and of the other districts mentioned above, if their physical and moral qualities be taken together, appear to possess a considerable degree of superiority over the peasantry of any part of the island.

1*st May*, 1800.

No. CXXIX.

Extract from an Account of a Female Overseer of the Parish of Stoke. *By* George Brooks, *Esq.*

MRS. PARKER SEDDING, of Stoke Pogies, Bucks, widow, rents a farm of upwards of 400*l.* a year. Seeing that the state of the poor, especially in the workhouse, was in an ill condition, she consented to undertake the troublesome office of overseer; and is now, with the commendation of the justices, serving her third year in that office. The interior of the workhouse was irregular and dirty, and the poor inhabitants of it filthy and idle; and, as its distance from her own dwelling prevented her going to inspect the orderly and cleanly regulations she would establish, with that frequency which their necessity required, she voluntarily left the comforts of her own house,

and lived one whole month in the workhouse. She employed the poor to clean the house throughout, and compelled them to observe cleanliness in their own persons, to fumigate the clothes and bedding in the oven, to mend the ragged garments capable of being mended, and to make what new ones were necessary; and having taken proper measures that the poor should have sufficient and sound clothing and bedding, wholesome food, instruction and employment, she left them in a state of order, cleanliness and comfort, under the charge of a careful man and his wife, whom she had engaged to superintend the workhouse under her direction. This couple perform the offices of schoolmaster and mistress to the children, read the prayers daily with all the poor, and on Sundays read to them the Holy Scriptures. They also instruct the poor in spinning. Being unable to prevail upon the vestry to establish a parochial manufactory in the workhouse, on a scale adapted to their numbers, Mrs. Sedding has done it at her own charge, and has intro-

duced a little manufactory of worsted. The poor have a portion of their earnings. One little boy in petticoats at the spinning wheel, earned twopence a day, and had it all for himself; and as he knew he was to be put into boys cloths when he had earned them, he was working very diligently indeed to obtain them. A little girl eight years old earned threepence a day for herself. Exclusively of these interior improvements, it should not be omitted to be stated, that, when Mrs. Sedding was named overseer, she found the poor were *farmed.* She took the care of them into her own hands, made them more comfortable, paid off the arrears of debt owing by the parish, and, notwithstanding this incumbrance, she has reduced the poors rates. Mrs. Sedding is universally allowed to be one of the best farmers, as well as best neighbours; she is a most active woman, and is continually doing good among the poor. I would submit to consideration, whether this valuable *Female Overseer*, in her sphere, is not forwarding the views of the society, and whether it would not help

to promote their humane object if the example of such an overseer of the poor were so noticed and recorded by the Society,* that it might be generally held out to the imitation of other overseers, where any excitement may be wanting to put the condition of a workhouse into better order, especially in some of the country parishes.

* I have great pleasure in being able to add to Mr. Brooks's, my own testimony of Mrs. Sedding's merit as an exemplary overseer. In attending as a magistrate at Salthill, I have been a witness of Mrs. Sedding's conduct in the execution of her office, and of the success which has attended it; and I have taken an opportunity of recommending her knowledge of her duty, her care of the poor, and her attention to the true interests of her parish, as objects of imitation to the other overseers of that district. In consequence of Mr. Brooks's account, and of the corroborative testimony of Mr. Watts and myself, the Committee of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, at their monthly meeting last week, came to a resolution: "That George "Brooks, Esq. be requested to convey to Mrs. Sedding, "the Overseer of the Poor for the parish of Stoke "Pogies, the Thanks of the Committee, for her great "Exertions for the benefit and improvement of the "Poor of that Parish; and that a Copy of the Reports "of the Society be presented to Mrs. Sedding as a Tes-"timonal of the sense which the Members of the Com-"mittee entertain of her conduct." B. 15 *Feb.* 1806.

OBSERVATIONS.

Such an instance as the above being recorded in the Society's publications, may, it is hoped, be of service; both as an inducement to others to adopt a similar plan, or to improve upon their present systems, and as offering a merited compliment to her voluntary and laborious undertaking.

The late Earl of Rosslyn, who lived in the parish, and took an active part in the interest of the poor, was so much satisfied with Mrs. Sedding's conduct in her office, as to request her to continue it another year, and she accordingly has served a third year. Many of the circumstances above stated are well known to others as well as to myself. At my request David Pike Watts, Esq. personally visited the workhouse at Stoke, and viewed the state of things there, since the salutary regulations introduced under the direction and through the indefatigable exertion of Mrs. Sedding.

The Reverend Arthur Bold, the Vicar of Stock Pogies, is a frequent observer of these proceedings at the parochial workhouse, warmly commends the zeal and perseverance with which they have been carried into effect, and would, I make no doubt, be ready to allow any references to be made to him respecting them.

3d February, 1806.

No. CXXX.

Extract from an Account of the means which have been used in the Hundreds *of* Ongar, *&c. respecting the apprenticing of the Children of the Poor. By the Reverend* William Herringham, A. M.

THE magistrates having observed with concern the great increase of the poor rates, in the respective parishes within this division, were anxious to adopt some measure which might tend to the reduction of this public burden. Considering the increase of the poor rates as having arisen in part from the expense of maintaining a very large number of boys and girls, who tho of an age to go into service, had been kept in idleness; they conceived that to carry into effect that part of the statute of 43 Eliz. chap. ii. which relates to the apprenticing of poor children, would greatly conduce to alleviate

the evil so much complained of; and also to improve the morals of the lower orders of the community.

With this view they began, in the year 1801, to require from the overseer of the poor, returns of the number of children from the age of twelve years and upwards (then receiving alms from the respective parishes) who tho fit to go out to service were unemployed. From he first returns which they received, it appears that the number of children of the above description, at that time unemployed in the fifty parishes of this division, was 581. These, the overseers were directed, to put out to apprenticeship or service. This method of providing for the children of the poor, tho sanctioned by an act of parliament, which, for more than two hundred years had been the principal guide to overseers in the management of the poor, had been so long neglected, that it now appeared like a new measure, and required some time to adjust it properly. Previous, however, to the month of April 1802, when

the second return was made of the unemployed children, 242 appear to have been put out either to apprenticeship, or to some other sort of service; for the question had been repeatedly agitated by parishes at their vestries, and overseers began by this time to feel the importance of this measure.

The two first returns of the unemployed children were not so exact as was expected, and it was not till January 1803, that a regular return was made, agreeably to a printed form prepared for that purpose.* This form had been sent round to every

* The following is the form alluded to.

The Overseers Return of the State of the Poor Children in the Parish of made the Day of 180

Names of children put out either as Apprentices or Servants.	Age.	To whom put out.	For what Term.

Residence of the Masters or Mistresses.	Names of Children fit to go out to Service, but not yet put out.	Age.

parish, with instructions to the overseers to fill up the same with care; and with an injunction that at their going out of office, they should give correct copies to their successors in office, that they might at one view see the state of the unemployed poor children of their parish, and might use all diligence in constantly carrying this salutary measure into effect.

By the month of April 1803, the number of children, which had been put out in addition to those which had been put out before appears to have been - - - 194

By the month of April, 1804, an additional number of - - - - - 202

By the month of April, 1805, an additional number of - - - - - 150

Thus in the course of four years 788 children have been put out to apprenticeship or service, of whom many, but for this regulation, would probably have been an useless burden to society, and many, for want of constant employment, would have been

vicious and profligate. The system continues to be pursued, and there is reason to hope that it will be productive of the most beneficial consequence to the community.

OBSERVATIONS.

The provisions of the 43 Eliz. have been thought too severe for the present day, inasmuch as they require an apprenticeship of a boy and girl to be for seven years, or until they are 21 years of age, which may be a much longer period; a term which would in many instances be inconvenient both to the master and servant. The great object being to make the children industrious and useful, it was considered that this end might be attained by a service of a shorter duration. Accordingly it has been in some parishes adopted as a rule, that each house-keeper in his turn should take a poor boy or girl, and instruct such boy or girl in the duty or employment of a servant for one year; or that if he found it inconvenient to take such a child himself, he should be bound to provide the

child with a situation in some respectable family.

In other parishes, the same end has been attained by an apprenticeship for a short time, with a small premium paid out of the poor rates; such persons to whom it should be inconvenient to take an apprentice in their turn, being made subject to a small fine, which fine was to be given with the child to be put out, to the person who was next in rotation to take an apprentice; and if such second person should decline taking an apprentice, the fine paid by such person, together with the former fine, was to be given to the third in rotation, and so on, till the child to be placed out was provided for. The means of carrying this measure into effect has been left to the regulation of each parish, but the system, more or less, has been adopted in all.

15th February, 1806.

No. CXXXI.

Extract from an Account of the Bath *Society for the Suppression of Vagrants, the Relief of Distress, and Encouragement of Industry. By* J. S. Duncan, Esq.

On the 20th of January 1805, there was inserted in the Bath papers an address to the Inhabitants and visitors of Bath and its environs, requesting them to abstain from casual alms to common beggars; and, on any such application, to give a ticket referring to an office then opened "for inquiring into cases "of distress, detecting imposture, and di- "recting charity to its proper object." A society of ladies and gentlemen was at the same time formed for carrying the plan into execution, and letters, with tickets, were printed and distributed throughout the city of Bath.

It cannot have escaped the observation of those, who have visited Bath during the season of general resort, that the streets have generally been infested with importunate beggars. Indiscriminate benevolence held out an unceasing encouragement to idleness and vagrancy: and it was too much to expect of the local poor, under the pressure of distress, that they should not join the throng of supplicants for relief; at the same time, it could not be doubted, that if all individuals would unite in the general plan, to abstain from casual alms, and to give tickets of reference to an office of inquiry, the views of the impostor would be frustrated, and the fraudulent and criminal would shrink from investigation, and abandon a place where a strict inquiry would be made into character and circumstances.

A Committee was appointed, consisting of 24 members, who in rotation attend at the office. A Committee of Ladies directs the best mode of relief in female cases. A room has been hired in a central part of Bath,

where one of the Committee attends on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 12 to 2, to receive applications, and register cases. The intermediate days are devoted to inquiry into the cases which have been registered. A beadle, employed by the Society, examines the streets of Bath twice a day, and makes an immediate report of any case of mendicity, which comes within his notice.

It has appeared, not only from respectable information, but even from the testimony of the mendicants themselves, that the houses at which they commonly procure lodgings, are so conducted as to destroy all sense of decency; men, women, and children being crowded together, passing the night in the same apartment, and exhibiting a continued scene of riot and debauchery. The cases of travellers, alleging inability to proceed on their journey, from sickness or other cause, have been inquired into; those, who have not appeared as common mendicants, have had immediate relief; and where it appeared

that they had come from a distance, with a fair expectation of obtaining employment at Bath, they have been assisted in returning home. Many have received aid in sickness and distress; and the greater part of these have surmounted their difficulties without parochial relief, cherishing at the same time the love of independence and the motive to industry.

Small sums have been advanced on loan to poor persons, in cases of sudden calamity, when repayment by instalments has appeared practicable. The benefit of the Lying-in Charity has been extended, and it is proposed to employ the methods, recommended by the London and Manchester Societies, for prevention of contagious fever; and to purify the apartments of those who are afflicted by malignant and infectious diseases. If any person receiving temporary relief from the Society, is found begging, further relief is suspended. In addition to the reward of ten shillings, granted by 17 Geo. II. to any person apprehending and conveying a rogue

and vagabond before a magistrate, the Society allows, on conviction, a further premium of five shillings from the funds of the Society. The number of applicants, from the 20th of January to the 20th of April 1805, were 211; of whom about a fifth were vagrants and impostors, two-fifths parochial cases, since relieved by the parish, and the remainder composed of cases of real distress, effectually relieved by the Society.

In supplying the relief of this charity, the greatest difficulty of investigation seems to have attended the cases of vagrants. At Bath however, even where the evil was general and inveterate, the inconveniences do not appear to have been very considerable. Gross and palpable imposture has been detected; and notorious vagabonds have been conveyed by the constable to the magistrates, to be dealt with according to law. Of about 110 vagrants who have applied, there have been only 10 doubtful cases; above 20 have been dismissed as impostors; and

the remaining 80 have received small donations, which were proportioned to the apparent exigency of the case, and have been so applied, that about £17. distributed among more than 90 petitioners, have been perfectly adequate to the object. The visitors have, at the same time, continued to remind those who let lodgings to vagrants, of the penalties inflicted by the 17th Geo. II. on those, by whom persons legally removed, shall be again harboured.

But the principal attention has been paid to the cases of the *resident poor*, whether legally settled in Bath, or resident out of their respective parishes. Where the law provides an immediate and adequate remedy, or parochial relief has been already obtained, no pecuniary contribution (except in cases of sickness) is made on the part of the Society: but it has appeared that advice and assistance, with regard to the manner and ground of applying for relief, has been often greatly needed and usefully bestowed. Those

who claim parish relief must, if required, return to their parish in order to obtain it. This is frequently attended with great aggravation of distress. In sickness it is always painful, sometimes dangerous, and the application is seldom made in time. Severe distress will be encountered, before those who possess *any degree* of comfort at home, will submit to be crowded into a common apartment with the filthy and the profligate.

The periodical fluctuation of the opulent inhabitants of Bath, enables many to subsist with ease and comfort during the greater part of the year, who during the remainder are wholly without employment or subsistence. Of these some belong to distant parishes, and the greater part want that prospective prudence, which ought to provide for stagnation of employment. In cases of sickness, and still more in the calamity of infectious disease, their distress becomes deplorable. During the summer of 1805, the

small pox* raged as a pestilence through Bath and its neighbourhood; and the members of the Society, engaged in visiting the sufferers under this infectious disease, have witnessed scenes of wretchedness and filth, which would even excite horror in the description.

During this violent prevalence of the small pox, applications from the poor have been frequent and urgent. The visitors have sedulously combated the prejudices of the poor against inoculation of either kind; and have particularly endeavoured to induce them to protect their families from infection, according to the mildest method, by accepting of the liberal offer held forth by the JENNERIAN SOCIETY of this place.

* Upon reference to the Bills of Mortality of the year 1805, it will appear that the prevalence and mortality of the small pox have been greatly increased; a circumstance to be imputed to the prejudices so industriously disseminated against vaccination, and to an extreme and increased carelessness as to the communication of the infection of the small pox. B. *6th March*, 1806.

With a view to the encouragement of industry, a Special Committee has been formed for the purpose of considering the best means of providing employment for those who, from natural infirmity or casualty, are unable to earn a maintenance. This has been attended with a considerable degree of success; and at the same time there has been formed at Bath, upon the principles which Mrs. Cappe has detailed in her observations on charity schools, and under the patronage of Lady Isabella King, a HOUSE OF PROTECTION for the education of young women in the various branches of domestic economy, with a view to making them virtuous and useful servants.

The number of cases examined into during nine months, ending the 20th of September 1805, were 440. Of these 95 have been rejected, as not having claim to relief; 39 have (with some temporary aid) been recommended to their parishes; and 135 poor persons of Bath, and 171 of other and

more distant settlements, have been effectually relieved from temporary distress.

A list is kept by the Society, of washerwomen, charwomen, &c. wanting employment, several of whom they can recommend in the strongest manner. The books, containing a detail of the cases of all the applicants, are open to the inspection of the public; and the very few mendicants, either 6 or 7 individuals, who have perseveringly continued in their occupation at Bath notwithstanding sufficient relief afforded them, are noticed in the Society's last Report, as being now no longer objects deserving of charity.

The balance in hand in September 20, 1805, was £168. 6*s*. 3*d*. after an expenditure* of £357. 6*s*. 11*d*.; which has been

* The Reader may possibly be desirous of referring to the following Account of the Monies disbursed by the Society, from January 20, to end of September 1805.

To the Ladies, for purchasing 6 sets of child-bed linen, at £3. 3*s*. each set,

enhanced by the several petty expenses incident to a new institution, by the purchases

	£.	s.	d.
which poor women known to the Society have been employed to make up; and which have already been sent to 21 married women in child-birth, who would otherwise have been destitute of such necessaries: likewise for providing necessary sustenance in such cases; thus extending the benefit of Mr. Norman's excellent charity:—also for the purchase of various articles of clothing, such as shirts, shifts, flannel petticoats, and waistcoats, against the winter; together with sundry other aids, more particularly under the Ladies' department -	64	13	6
To sundries printing. This article is unavoidably much higher at the commencement of such an institution than it will be afterwards - - -	40	18	3
To various sums lent to poor people, to be repaid by weekly instalments. These repayments have in general been very punctually made; as will sufficiently appear, when it is considered that the Society only commenced this practice in April last, that the weekly instalments never exceed 1*s.* 6*d.* and are generally not more than 1*s.* per week; that some interval is usually allowed			
Carried forward	105	11	9

of 6 sets of child-bed linen for lying-in women, and by some other incidental

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	105	11	9
before their commencement; and that the sum already repaid amounts to £10. 2s. 10d. - - -	38	1	0
To soup-tickets and potatoes, which the Society distribute, as much as possible, instead of money - - -	23	10	1½
To the beadle's wages, including some additional charges incurred at Hetling-House, at the commencement of the institution - - -	25	2	6
To the beadle, for ten vagrants apprehended and convicted, at 5s. each, as an additional reward to that which the law already grants - - -	2	10	0
To expended by Mr. Newland, our medical inspector, in visiting and assisting with medicine 231 cases, wherein many, it is believed, would otherwise have languished without any assistance whatever - - - - -	15	18	11
To subscribed by the Society to the Dispensary - - - -	3	3	0
To ditto to the Humane Society - -	5	5	0
To Taylor, a poor man, who suffered by the fire in Grove-street - -	5	5	0
To more than 40 cases, visited by a nurse hired by the Society, and relieved with			
Carried over	224	7	3½

charges: an expenditure, which has given relief to 345 persons, has checked mendi-

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	224	7	3½
various necessaries, under the small-pox - - - -	9	8	2½
To Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Jackson, for instruction of 20 children in making patten-ties, at 2*s.* 6*d.* per week each, from June 4 to end of September: the children from 8 to 12 are thus enabled to earn immediately 1*s.* 2*s.* and sometimes more per week - -	4	5	0
To premiums to the two best children in the patten-tie business, at 3*d.* each per week - - - -	0	8	6
To vagrants and other travellers, with notice immediately to quit the town. About 50 vagrants, the greater part common beggars and impostors, and more than 60 travellers, have by these means been induced immediately to quit the town, many of whom would otherwise have remained here confirmed mendicants. The Society can venture to affirm, that although new strangers may be occasionally seen, very few indeed of those so assisted and warned to depart have since returned - - - -	17	2	0
Carried forward	255	11	0

city, encouraged industry and exertion, and increased the value of *character*, in that great city, and at the same time has suggested a more unexceptionable mode of relief,

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	255	11	0
The remainder of the disbursements, amounting to £101. 15s. 11d. has been expended in weekly allowances, donations, premiums in the button-making school, &c. When it is considered that 61 poor persons belonging to distant parishes, whose difficulties of obtaining prompt parochial relief were manifestly great, and that more than 120 of the poor belonging to Bath have thus been enabled to struggle through their temporary calamities, without throwing themselves on their parishes, and are now mostly returned to their former habits of industry; and when to this is added the conviction that the money so bestowed would otherwise probably have been lavished in supporting idleness and profligacy, and thus filling the town with beggars; it is trusted that the public will feel the value of such an institution, and continue to support it with renewed contributions and persevering co-operation	101	15	11
Total disbursed	357	6	11

for the distress to which human nature is subject in this period of trial and probation, than any that has been as yet discovered.

OBSERVATIONS.

Persons unaccustomed to inquire minutely into the distresses of the poor, are apt to form false judgments respecting them, tinctured with the opposite extremes of sympathy and severity; of sympathy, which considers not the effect of habit; and of severity, which presumes that no aggravated cases can occur, which are not anticipated in this country by legal and adequate relief.

Whatever may be the estimate of the gains of mendicants in their wretched and forlorn situation, and however small that pittance may be, we shall probably find that the most miserable beggar costs the community much more, than the total of the relief to be supplied them on the plan of the Bath Society. It appears by the late

Parliamentary Returns, that the expense of paupers in workhouses is nearly four times as much as in their own cottages; and by Mr. Rose's observations on the Poor Laws, (page 36) it appears that the extra expense of those individuals, who are shut up in workhouses, is not less than 9*l.* a head; a national loss, (independent of other circumstances) of near a million a year. But the relief and support of the common mendicant is far more wasteful and expensive, than that of the parochial pauper; and the constant example of individuals, fed and maintained without their own personal labour or action, produces on the minds of the labouring poor, a continual check to industry and exertion.

17*th February*, 1806.

No. CXXXII.

Extract from an Account of the Apprenticing of the Children of the Poor, in Devonshire. *By the Rev.* Duke Yonge.

The magistrates of the county of Devon, have of late paid a particular attention to the execution of the 43d of Elizabeth, respecting the apprenticing of the children of the poor. By this statute the churchwardens and overseers, with the assent of two justices, are vested with a power of binding out the children of such persons as they shall think unable to maintain them, until the age of 21 years; and by subsequent acts, power is given to the magistrates to watch over and protect them when so bound.

The practice recently adopted in Devonshire, is for the churchwardens and overseers to meet, and according to the value of the

estates, &c. to settle what masters shall take Apprentices; upon which, if any question arises, it is decided by the Justices, and generally by ballot. Previously to the children being apprenticed, they appear before the magistrates; whose duty it is to inquire, whether they are fit for the situation in respect of health, strength, or age, and whether there are any objections to the master in point of character, or previous conduct to any former apprentice. The children are properly clothed when they are apprenticed; and if during their apprenticeship, there occurs any just ground of complaint as to misusage, the magistrates exercise a summary power of redress. As the children are generally placed out in the same, or in an adjoining parish, to that in which their parents reside, they continue in some degree under their parents eye; and any well founded complaint is easily made, and soon redressed. Their work is not disproportioned to their strength. They are better fed, better clothed, and kept more clean, than they could have been at home:

they are bred up to hardy employment, and have generally the appearance of health and comfort.

The justices at quarter sessions have made an order for the overseers to ascertain, that these apprentices attend regularly upon public worship, and that their names are called over after service, and a quarterly return made to the justices of the division, as to their conduct and situation. Very great benefits have been produced by this excellent regulation, It operates in the way of preventive justice; while, at the same time, it trains up the children to religious habits. Clothing and necessary food can hardly be withheld, in any considerable degree, from those, who are placed every week before the eyes of the minister and overseers, and of the whole congregation of the parish. It is much to be regretted that such a regulation is not adopted throughout the kingdom, with a summary power to regulate and enforce its execution.

The poor themselves, who are accustomed to see the execution of this law, consider it as very beneficial to their children. As a proof of it, great part of the children have been apprenticed at the request of their parents. At the same time viewing the subject in a moral and political view, it seems to be of the greatest importance, that children should be placed under the control of masters, whose natural interest it is to train them in habits of virtue and industry. The country is thus furnished with a hardy race of peasants, bred to agriculture, the most useful of all arts, and one of the most essential to the existence of every country. At the same time it has been a general observation, that the moral and religious habits of the Devonshire poor, have been improved by the newly adopted system, of apprenticing their children, a system which while it possesses the authority of law, has now the sanction of experience.

OBSERVATIONS.

The complaint of want of hands to cultivate the ground has been frequently made.

It is certainly of the utmost importance to every country, that, if possible, it should raise the corn for its own consumption: and in proportion to the number of children employed in manufactures, it will be more and more our concern to provide for the cultivation of the ground; especially at a time when in many counties, a very great number of the children are employed in manufactures; and their health impaired, their lives shortened, their morals injured, and the agricultural interests of the country materially prejudiced.

Employment however, even under disadvantages, is better than idleness; and therefore, while we notice the objections to crowded and unregulated manufactories, we should not forget that children remaining *idle and unemployed* in the houses of their parents, are not likely to be improved, or to become useful and virtuous members of society. The placing them out in the world, will therefore continue to be an essential act of policy, until those domestic

advantages shall be given the cottager, which the examples of the Earl of Winchilsea, the Bishop of Durham, and others have contributed so much to recommend, as a general system for the country: I mean the advantages of small portions of ground, with encouragement to keep cows, pigs, bees, and other objects of domestic attention and employment; so as to supply the cottager's family with profitable occupation to afford him easy and pleasant employment for his leisure hours, and to train up and habituate his children to agriculture.

* If cottagers families could be employed in GARDEN-HUSBANDRY, without interruption of the cottager's daily labour, the benefit to them and to the country, and the advantage of breeding up children so as to be industrious and useful, would exceed all calculation. At the Bishop of Durham's, at Mongewell, he has allotted a little plot of ground, for the adjoining cottagers to cultivate, according to their means and industry. The produce of the preceding summer upon half a rood of this ground (the rent being two shillings and sixpence) is as follows:

Five gallons and a half of turnip seed, at 5s. per gallon - - - -	1	7	6
Six sacks of potatoes - -	1	10	0

And also pease and cabbages for the use of the cottager and his family. 7th Nov. 1805.

This would do much.—What more is wanted for this object, must be derived from the establishment of MARITIME SCHOOLS, to which those parishes, who have not otherwise a proper provision for the education of their poor children, shall be obliged to send them, at an allowance nearly adequate to their cost in the workhouse. This is a measure which has been suggested by Mr. Rose, and which would be of infinite benefit to this country, if properly arranged and executed, as affording the means of rescuing our parish children from vicious and idle habits, and training them up to agriculture, or to the navy ;—so as to produce an annual supply of hardy and disciplined youth for the cultivation of our soil, the extension of our commerce, and the defence of our country.

18*th February*, 1806.

No. IX.

On the Effects of the legal Establishment of Parochial Schools in Scotland. By James Currie, M. D.

A SLIGHT acquaintance with the peasantry of Scotland, will serve to convince an unprejudiced observer, that they possess a degree of intelligence not generally found among the same class of men in the other countries of Europe. In the very humblest condition of the Scottish peasants, every one can read, and most persons are more or less skilled in writing and arithmetic; and, under the disguise of their uncouth appearance, and of their peculiar manners and dialect, a stranger will discover that they possess a curiosity, and have obtained a degree of information, corresponding to these acquirements.

These advantages they owe to the legal provision made by the Parliament of Scotland in 1646, for the establishment of a school in every parish throughout the kingdom, for the ex-

press purpose of educating the poor; a law which may challenge comparison with any act of legislation to be found in the records of history, whether we consider the wisdom of the ends in view, the simplicity of the means employed, or the provisions made to render these means effectual to their purpose. This excellent statute was repealed on the accession of Charles II. in 1660, together with all the other laws passed during the commonwealth, as not being sanctioned by the royal assent. It slept during the reigns of Charles and James, but was re-enacted precisely in the same terms, by the Scottish parliament, after the revolution in 1696; and this is the last provision on the subject. Its effects on the national character may be considered to have commenced about the period of the union; and doubtless it co-operated with the peace and security arising from that happy event, in producing the extraordinary change in favour of industry and good morals, which the character of the common people of Scotland has since undergone.

The Church Establishment of Scotland happily coincides with the institution just mentioned, which may be called its school estab-

lishment. The clergyman, being every where resident in his particular parish, becomes the natural patron and superintendant of the parish school, and is enabled in various ways to promote the comfort of the teacher, and the proficiency of the scholars. The teacher himself is often a candidate for holy orders, who, during the long course of study and probation required in the Scottish Church, renders the time which can be spared from his professional studies, useful to others as well as to himself, by assuming the respectable character of a schoolmaster. It is common for the established schools, even in the country parishes of Scotland, to enjoy the means of classical instruction;* and many of the farmers, and some even of the cottagers, submit to much privation, that they may obtain, for one of their sons at least, the precarious advantage of a learned education. The difficulty to be surmounted arises, indeed, not from the expense of instructing their children, but from the charge

* Church music is likewise a part of the education of the peasantry of Scotland, in which they are usually instructed in the long winter nights by the parish school-master, who is generally the precentor, or by itinerant teachers more celebrated for their powers of voice.

of supporting them. In the country parish schools, the English language, writing, and accounts,* are generally taught at the rate of six shillings, and Latin at the rate of ten or twelve shillings per annum. In the towns, the prices are somewhat higher.

The information and the religious education of the peasantry of Scotland, promote sedate-

* That dancing should also be very generally a part of the education of the Scottish peasantry, will surprise those who have only seen this description of men; and still more those, who reflect on the rigid spirit of Calvinism with which the nation is so deeply affected, and to which this recreation is strongly abhorrent. The winter is also the season when they acquire dancing, and indeed almost all their other instruction. They are taught to dance by persons generally of their own number, many of whom work at daily labour during the summer months. The school is usually a barn, and the *arena* for the performers is generally a clay floor. The dome is lighted by candles stuck in one end of a cloven stick, the other end of which is thrust into the wall. Reels, strathspeys, country-dances, and hornpipes, are here practised. The jig, so much in favour among the English peasantry, has no place among them. The attachment of the people of Scotland of every rank, and particularly of the peasantry, to this amusement, is very great. After the labours of the day are over, young men and women walk many miles, in the cold and dreary nights of winter, to these country-dancing schools; and the instant that the violin sounds a Scottish air, fatigue seems to vanish, the toil-bent rustic becomes erect, his features brighten with sympathy; every nerve seems to thrill with sensation, and every artery to vibrate with life.

ness of conduct, and habits of thought and reflection.—These good qualities are not counteracted by the establishment of poor-laws, which, while they reflect credit on the benevolence, detract from the wisdom of the English legislature. To make a legal provision for the inevitable distresses of the poor, who by age or disease, are rendered incapable of labour, may indeed seem an indispensable duty of society; and if, in the execution of a plan for this purpose, a distinction could be introduced, so as to exclude from its benefits those whose sufferings are produced by idleness or profligacy, such an institution would perhaps be as rational as humane. But to lay a general tax on property for the support of poverty, from whatever cause proceeding, is a measure full of danger. It must operate in a considerable degree as an incitement to idleness, and a discouragement to industry. It takes away from vice and indolence the prospect of their most dreaded consequences, and from virtue and industry their peculiar sanctions. In many cases it must render the rise in the price of labour, not a blessing, but a curse to the labourer; who, if there be an excess in what he earns beyond his immediate necessities, may

be expected to devote this excess to his present gratification; trusting to the provision made by law for his own and his family's support, should disease suspend, or death terminate his labours. Happily in Scotland, the same legislature which established a system of instruction for the poor, resisted the introduction of a legal provision for the support of poverty; the establishment of the first, and the rejection of the last, were equally favourable to industry and good morals; and hence it will not appear surprising, if the Scottish peasantry have a more than usual share of prudence and reflection, if they approach nearer than persons of their order usually do, to the definition of a man, that of "a being that looks before and after."

A striking particular in the character of the Scottish peasantry, is one which it is hoped will not be lost—the strength of their domestic attachments. The privations to which many parents submit for the good of their children, and particularly to obtain for them instruction, which they consider as the chief good, has already been noticed. If their children live and prosper, they have their certain reward, not merely as witnessing, but as sharing of their

prosperity. Even in the humblest ranks of the peasantry, the earnings of the children may generally be considered as at the disposal of their parents; perhaps in no country is so large a portion of the wages of labour applied to the support and comfort of those whose days of labour are past. A similar strength of attachment extends through all the domestic relations.

1st May, 1800.

No. X.

The following Report of the Medical Committee of the Jennerian Society, on the subject of Vaccination, has been subscribed by 21 *Physicians and* 29 *Surgeons of the first eminence in the Metropolis; and has been ordered to be printed and circulated among the members of the Society. It is inserted here, with a view to its more extensive circulation.*

The Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society, having been informed that various cases had occurred, which excited prejudices against Vaccine Inoculation, and tended to check the progress of that important discovery in this kingdom, appointed a Committee of twenty-five of their members to inquire, not only into the nature and truth of such cases, but also into the evidence respecting instances of Small pox, alleged to have occurred twice in the same person.

In consequence of this reference, the Committee made diligent inquiry into the history of a number of cases, in which it was supposed

that Vaccination had failed to prevent the Small-pox, and also of such cases of Small-pox, as were stated to have happened subsequently to the natural or inoculated Small-pox.

In the course of their examination the Committee learned, that opinions and assertions had been advanced and circulated, which charged the Cow-pox with rendering patients liable to particular diseases, frightful in their appearance, and hitherto unknown ; and judging such opinions to be connected with the question as to the efficacy of the practice, they thought it incumbent upon them to examine also into the validity of these injurious statements respecting Vaccination.

After a very minute investigation of these subjects, the result of their inquiries has been submitted to the Medical Council ; and from the Report of the Committee it appears :

I. That most of the cases, which have been urged in proof of the inefficiency of Vaccination, and which have been the subjects of public attention and conversation, are either wholly unfounded, or grossly misrepresented.

II. That other cases, brought forward as instances of the failure of Vaccination to prevent the Small-pox, are now allowed, by the very

persons who first related them, to have been erroneously stated.

III. That the statements of the greater part of those cases have been already carefully investigated, ably discussed, and fully refuted, by different writers on the subject.

IV. That notwithstanding the most incontestable proofs of such misrepresentations, a few medical men have persisted in repeatedly bringing the same unfounded and refuted reports, and misrepresentations before the public, thus perversely and disingenuously labouring to excite prejudices against Vaccination.

V. That in some printed accounts adverse to Vaccination, in which the writers had no authenticated facts to support the opinions they advanced, nor any reasonable arguments to maintain them, the subject has been treated with indecent and disgusting levity; as if the good or evil of society were fit objects for sarcasm and ridicule.

VI. That when the practice of Vaccination was first introduced and recommended by Dr. Jenner, many persons, who had never seen the effects of the vaccine fluid on the human system, who were almost wholly unacquainted

with the history of Vaccination, the characteristic marks of the genuine vesicle, and the cautions necessary to be observed in the management of it, and were therefore incompetent to decide whether patients were properly vaccinated or not, nevertheless ventured to inoculate for the Cow-pox.

VII. That many persons have been declared duly vaccinated, when the operation was performed in a very negligent and unskilful manner, and when the inoculator did not afterwards see the patients, and therefore could not ascertain whether infection had taken place or not; and that to this cause are certainly to be attributed many of the cases adduced in proof of the inefficacy of Cow-pox.

VIII. That some cases have been brought before the Committee, on which they could form no decisive opinion, from the want of necessary information as to the regularity of the preceding Vaccination, or the reality of the subsequent appearance of the Small-pox.

IX. That it is admitted by the Committee, that a few cases have been brought before them, of persons having the Small-pox, who had apparently passed through the Cow-pox in a regular way.

X. That cases, supported by evidence equally strong, have been also brought before them, of persons who, after having once regularly passed through the Small-pox, either by inoculation or natural infection, have had that disease a second time.

XI. That in many cases, in which the Small-pox has occurred a second time, after inoculation or the natural disease, such recurrence has been particularly severe, and often fatal; whereas, when it has appeared after Vaccination, the disease has generally been so mild, as to lose some of its characteristick marks, and in many instances, to render its existence doubtful.

XII. That it is a fact well ascertained, that, in some particular states of certain constitutions, whether vaccine or variolous matter be employed, a local disease only will be excited by inoculation, the constitution remaining unaffected; yet that matter taken from such local vaccine or variolous pustule is capable of producing a general and perfect disease.

XIII. That if a person, bearing the strongest and most indubitable marks of having had the Small-pox, be repeatedly inoculated for that disease, a pustule may be produced, the matter

of which will communicate the disease to those who have not been previously infected.

XIV. That, although it is difficult to determine precisely the number of exceptions to the practice, the Medical Council are fully convinced, that the failure of Vaccination, as a preventive of the Small pox, is a very rare occurrence.

XV. That of the immense number who have been vaccinated in the army and navy, in different parts of the United Kingdom, and in every quarter of the globe, scarcely any instances of such failure have been reported to the Committee, but those which are said to have occurred in the Metropolis, or its vicinity.

XVI. That the Medical Council are fully assured, that in very many places, in which the Small-pox raged with great violence, the disease has been speedily and effectually arrested in its progress, and in some populous cities almost wholly exterminated, by the practice of Vaccination.

XVII. That the practice of inoculation for the Small-pox, on its first introduction into this country, was opposed and very much retarded, in consequence of misrepresentations

and arguments drawn from assumed facts, and of miscarriages arising from the want of correct information, similar to those now brought forward against Vaccination, so that nearly fifty years elapsed before Small-pox inoculation was fully established.

XVIII. That, by a reference to the bills of mortality, it will appear that, to the unfortunate neglect of Vaccination, and to the prejudices raised against it, we may, in a great measure, attribute the loss of nearly two thousand lives by the Small-pox, in this Metropolis alone, within the present year.

XIX. That the few instances of failure, either in the inoculation of the Cow-pox, or of the Small-pox, ought not to be considered as objections to either practice, but merely as deviations from the ordinary course of nature.

XX. That, from all the facts which they have been able to collect, it appears to the Medical Council, that the Cow-pox is generally mild and harmless in its effects; and no instance has come to their knowledge, in which there was reason to admit, that Vaccine Inoculation had, of itself, produced any new or dangerous disease, as has been ignorantly and unwarrantably asserted; but that the few cases,

which have been alleged against this opinion, may be fairly attributed to other causes.

XXI. That if a comparison be made between the effects of Vaccination, and those of inoculation for the Small-pox, it would be necessary to take into account the greater number of persons who have been vaccinated within a given time, it being probable, that within the last seven years, nearly as many persons have been inoculated for the Cow-pox, as were ever inoculated for the Small-pox, since the practice was introduced into this kingdom.

XXII. That many well-known cutaneous diseases, and some scrophulous complaints, have been represented as the effects of Vaccine Inoculation, when in fact they originated from other causes, and in many instances occurred long after Vaccination, but that such diseases are infinitely less frequent after Vaccination, than after either the natural or inoculated Small-pox.

Having stated these facts, and made these observations, the Medical Council cannot conclude their Report upon a subject so highly

important and interesting to all classes of the community, without making this solemn declaration:

That, in their opinion, founded on their own individual experience, and the information which they have been able to collect from that of others, mankind have already derived great and incalculable benefit from the discovery of Vaccination: and that it is their full belief, that the sanguine expectations of advantage and security, which have been formed from the inoculation of the Cow-pox, will be ultimately and completely fulfilled.

25th Nov. 1805.

No. XI.

Account of the management of Bees on Mount Hymettus, in Greece. By George Wheler, Esquire.

"THE hives which they keep their bees in, are made of willows, or osiers, fashioned like our common dust baskets, wide at the top, and narrow at the bottom; and plaistered with clay, or loam, within and without.* They are set the wide end upwards. The tops being covered with broad flat sticks are also plaistered with clay at the top; and to secure them from the weather, they cover them with a tuft of straw, as we do. Along each of those sticks, the bees fasten their combs; so that a comb may be taken out whole, without the least bruising, and with the greatest ease imaginable. To increase them in spring-time, that is, in

* This account is extracted from Wheler's Journey through Greece, page 412; and it is inserted here, for the information of those of our readers, who have adopted the plan of encouraging their cottagers to keep Bees, as an object of profit.

March or April, until the beginning of May, they divide them; first separating the sticks, on which the combs and bees are fastened, from one another with a knife: so taking out the first comb and bees together, on each side, they put them into another basket, in the same order as they were taken out, until they have equally divided them. After this, when they are both again accommodated with sticks and plaister, they set the new basket in the place of the old one, and the old one in some new place. And all this they do in the middle of the day, at such time as the greatest part of the bees are abroad; who at their coming home, without much difficulty, by this means divide themselves equally. This device hinders them from swarming, and flying away. In August they take out their honey; which they do in the day time also, while they are abroad; the bees being thereby, they say, disturbed least. At which time they take out the combs laden with honey, as before; that is, beginning at each outside, and so taking away, until they have left only such a quantity of combs in the middle, as they judge will be sufficient to maintain the bees in winter; sweeping those bees, that are on the combs

they take out, into the basket again, and again covering it with new sticks and plaister. All that I doubt concerning the practice of this in England, is, that perhaps they may gather a less quantity of honey; and that, should they take the like quantity of honey from the bees here in England, they would not leave enough to preserve them in winter. But this hinders not much: for by being less covetous, and not taking so much honey from the poor bees, the great increase and multiplying of them would soon equalize, and far exceed the little profit we make by destroying of them. This is done without smoak; wherefore the antients call this honey, *unsmoaken honey*: and I believe the smoak of sulpur, which we use, takes away very much of the fragrancy of the wax; and sure I am, the honey can receive neither good taste, nor good smell from it."

25th Feb. 1806.

No. XII.

The following Report was made by a Select Committee, in consequence of a reference from the Board of Directors of the ROYAL JENNERIAN SOCIETY. *It was presented to the Board in July last; and having been approved by the Directors, was communicated to the Medical Council of the Society, who, upon reference to the Documents on which it was founded, also expressed their full approbation of the Report.*

IN pursuance of the reference from the Board of Directors of the 30th of May 1805, to the Committee to inquire whether, notwithstanding the Parliamentary grant of £ 10,000, Dr. Jenner is not actually a sufferer in his income and pecuniary circumstances, in consequence of the time which he has devoted to his valuable discovery of Vaccine Inoculation and of the various expences incident thereto, we have thought it better first to refer to the evidence which was delivered on the same subject, in March and April 1802, before a Committee of the House of Commons.—That testimony, indeed, appears of the highest authority; being given

by 46 respectable persons, 23 of them physicians of the first eminence, and the others either persons of high rank, or well known and distinguished medical characters; concurring in the strongest and most consistent evidence, that has, perhaps, been adduced upon any subject.

The result of that examination went to prove that a period of near twenty years of labour and attention had intervened between Dr. Jenner's first investigation in 1777, of the circumstances which led to Vaccination, and the completion of a discovery which has proved so interesting and important to mankind, and has produced so extraordinary a reduction in the mortality not only of London, but of other places: that when, at length, its nature and value were ascertained by him in 1796, it still remained in his power to have kept the secret to himself, and to have made by it £10,000 a year, or probably a much greater sum: but that by gratuitously divulging the secret, and publishing the detailed mode of operation, he had given up to the public the whole advantage, and had relinquished the opportunity of making his fortune.

Upon this evidence, the House of Commons voted Dr. Jenner the sum of £10,000, as a

compensation for his personal attention, private expense, and professional sacrifices anterior to that period; but, as the Committee conceives, without an idea of further services, or sacrifices, to be made by him, in diffusing the benefits of Vaccination. On the contrary, it appears that several members entertained an opinion, that Dr. Jenner's income and professional advantages would be greatly increased by the discovery; and that it would lead to much more extensive and lucrative practice as a physician.

The contrary of this, we are satisfied, from what Dr. Jenner has personally stated to us, and from other information, has been the case. The instructions which he gave as to Vaccine Inoculation in his publication in 1798, followed soon after by other directions, were so explicit and correct, that not only medical men, but other persons, who pay a careful attention to them, may thereby be enabled to perform the operation and conduct the process with success. Besides Dr. Jenner has not only sustained a diminution of professional income, but has had an increase of positive expense.—In the year 1798, when he published this discovery, he resided at Berkeby in Gloucestershire, and possessed the medical practice of

that immediate neighbourhood. His attendance in town, and his attention to the progress of the new discovery, have been the causes of two other physicians being now settled in the immediate vicinage of Berkeby; and, at present, Dr. Jenner participates with them in that professional practice, which he had formerly enjoyed, and but for the Jennerian discovery, he might have continued to enjoy alone. Again, it is to be observed that those applications on the subject of Vaccination, that require attention and investigation (whether of Great Britain or from any other part of the world) are more frequently addressed to Dr. Jenner, than to the Secretary of the Society; and these have been so numerous, that great part of Dr. Jenner's professional time has been engaged in this way, without any profit whatever. We also think ourselves authorized in stating, that while his general practise is greatly prejudiced by these circumstances, his average receipts for Vaccination have not amounted to £100. a year for some time past: and it is worthy of attention, that this has been occasioned by the unreserved manner in which he communicated the discovery; when (as appears from the evidence of Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Sims, Dr. Bradley, and other persons of

the first eminence) he might have kept the secret entirely to himself, and have thereby accumulated an immense fortune.

Instead, however, of great pecuniary advantages, it appears to the Committee, that his diminution of professional income, from his disinterested conduct in respect of the discovery, cannot be stated at less than £600. a year; and that his other losses on account of the number of applications made to him, and in postage and attendance, the employment of assistants, and a variety of incidental expences must amount to £200. a year more. In the mean time, this discovery has preserved to the army and navy, the lives of many thousands of useful men: and has diffused its benefits through every part, not only of the United Kingdom, but also of its foreign dominions, in the East and West Indies. We have also had the honor and gratification of supplying this preventive against a loathsome and fatal disease, to France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia, and America; in all which countries its blessings have been received with gratitude, and its advantages diffused with public care and attention, and with the most beneficial effects.

4th July 1805.

No. XIII.

Statement of the Medical Reports of the London House of Recovery, for the Year 1805. *By Thomas Bateman, M. D.*

No. I. 25th January 1805.—For some time past no pure typhus has fallen under our notice. All the seven patients, who have been admitted during the last two months,* have laboured under fevers arising from cold, accompanied with some inflammation of the lungs, and without any evidence of their nature being contagious; although they showed some of the symptoms which characterise typhus. The patient in whom the disease proved fatal, died on the second day after his admission, in consequence of the severity of the inflamation of the lungs, as was proved by dissection after death. All the courts and alleys,

* Four patients had remained in the house. During this period nine were dismissed cured; one died, and one remained in the house when this Report was made.

within the district of the Carey-street Dispensary, where typhus heretofore prevailed, remain entirely free from the disease.*

No. II. 22d February 1805.—Four patients were admitted since the last Report. They have had very mild fevers. Three of them were solitary instances, in which the origin could not be traced to contagion, nor did the disease extend beyond the individuals thus attacked. And in the fourth case, no suspicion of contagion would have arisen from the symptoms, had not three children been attacked in a similar way, a little before the patient, who was removed to the house; the children had recovered. One application was made from a house in Golden-lane, Old-street, where several persons had been attacked with fever, of whom two had died, and a third had been removed to St. Luke's, in a state of lunacy in consequence. On visiting the place I found the last individual, who had been attacked, in a dying state, with the worst symptoms of *typhus*. It was too late to save the patient's life; but the

* These Reports are periodically made by the physician of the House of Recovery, and read at the meetings of the Committee of the Fever Institution.

room has since been fumigated and white-washed at the expense of the Institution, in order to prevent the spreading of the disease among the future tenants. This is the only instance of *malignant typhus*, which has come under my notice during the last three months.

No. III. 29th March 1805.—The applications have been more numerous since the last report, than during the same space for some months past, and the fevers have been more decidedly of a contagious nature. Four of the patients* were from one family, and four more from two other families in which other individuals had been previously affected, and two deaths had occurred. The patient who died in the house, was admitted on the twelfth day of the fever, with a number of virulent symptoms, which rapidly increased, and terminated fatally within 48 hours from her admission. Five apartments have been fumigated and whitewashed.

No. IV. 26th April 1805.—There is at present no patient in the house.† The fever,

* Thirteen were admitted this month, in addition to one patient in the house. Of these five remained in the house at the time of this Report; eight had been dismissed cured, and one had died.

† Ten fever patients were dismissed cured in this Month.

which, from the number of applications in the last month, was judged to be increasing, seems to be not more prevalent, in fact, than it has been for some months past: nor have the instances, which have come under our care during the present month, been of a very virulent nature. One patient was admitted from the neighbourhood of Blackfriars Road, in consequence of a note from an apothecary, stating that her disorder was *typhus:* but it was, in fact, a severe hooping cough. She was sent home again, not only as an unfit object of the institution, but because there were several children in the house, at that time, convalescent from *typhus*, who might possibly have received the contagion of the hooping cough.

No. V. 28th June 1805.—Some of the cases* in the two preceding months, exhibited marks of considerable virulence; especially those of one of the two men who died, and of his two daughters. The latter recovered; and it is probable that the habit of intoxication, to which the father had been long accustomed, was the cause of the determination to the head,

* Fourteen were admitted; of whom one remained in the house, two died, and eleven were dismissed cured.

which produced a furious and unmanageable delirium, that terminated in his death. The other man who died, came in about the tenth day of the disease, with every bad symptom. The rest were mostly single cases, and their origin could not be traced.

No. VI. 30th August 1805.—Several of the cases of these two months* were of a considerably severe nature, with very obvious marks of contagion. In three instances two, and in one instance three, of the patients were members of one family; and in others some of the family had previously suffered under the disease. Yet the contagion, in all the examples, seems to have originated in the families who applied to the Institution, as it could not be traced farther: and it is probable, therefore, that in several, the Institution has been the means of arresting its progress, and saving other individuals from the infection.—Two of the cases were scarlet fever, admitted by mistake, during my absence from town.

No. VII. 27th September 1805.—During the

* Eighteen were admitted in addition to one patient in the house. Of these two remained in the house, and seventeen were dismissed cured.

last month there have been only four applications to the Institution; fevers appear to have been of rare occurrence. One patient died, who had been affected with one of the most malignant fevers, that I ever witnessed. She was a little indisposed on Sunday, (the 22d) and on Monday became very ill; on Tuesday her skin was covered with dark purple spots: on Wednesday, a little after twelve o'clock, she was received into the house, perfectly collected, and about nine the same evening sunk, and died; the skin immediately became black from head to foot, as if she had been lashed all over with a whip. I have not yet ascertained the source of the infection; but no other individual in the family has yet suffered.

No. VIII. 29th November 1805.—Eleven patients were admitted in the month of October, and two in the present month.* Where typhus has occurred, it has shewn no tendency to spread: for in all the cases, the individuals affected were unable to trace the source of their complaints, nor did the contagion extend to others. The man who died laboured under one of those unfortunate combinations of *typhus*

* Twelve were dismissed cured, and one died.

fever with inflamation of the lungs, which too frequently resist the powers of medicine. One of the patients was received from the work-house of St. Andrew's Holborn, and the over-seers of that parish have given two guineas to the Inspector on her account.

Besides the patients above mentioned, a woman was received from the parish of ——*— in a dying state, and expired almost immediately after she arrived. The overseers of that parish have refused to discharge the expences of interment; and have, besides, declared to the Inspector, that neither on the present, nor on any future occasion, will they defray the expences of any kind, relative to persons removed from that parish to the House of the Fever Institution.

No. IX. 27th December 1805.—Contagious fever seems to be at present almost extinct in the metropolis. Six patients only have been received into the house, since the first of November; and all of these have appeared to

* The name of this parish is not inserted. It is hoped the parishioners will see the danger, not only to the public but to themselves, from the line of conduct adopted by their overseers in this instance.

derive the disease from no previous contagious source, nor have any of them contributed to extend it to others. They have not afforded occasion for any particular remarks.

27th December, 1805.

CONTENTS OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

REPORT VII.

Prefatory introduction to the Second Volume—account of the management of the poor at Hamburgh—cottager's family at Hasketon—supply of flour by a friendly society—rewards given near Dublin for encouraging industry and good habits among the poor.

REPORT VIII.

Account of the asylum for the blind at Liverpool—Samaritan society for convalescents—female friendly society—Sunday society for the aged poor—parish windmill at Chislehurst—house of industry at Dublin.

REPORT IX.

Account of a provision for chimney sweepers' boys—rewards given by the Sussex society for encouraging industry and merit among the poor—charity for lying-in women—provision for cottagers keeping cows—Cork society for the poor—Royal institution—apprenticing poor children—Dublin house of industry—house of recovery at Manchester.

REPORT X.

Account of a society for encouraging prudence and industry—cottagers keeping cows—charity schools at Chester—Dublin society for promoting the comforts of the poor—free church at Bath.—APPENDIX, containing the Bishop of Durham's circular letter—rules to prevent infectious fevers—on preserving potatoes.

REPORT XI.

Account of the Mendip schools—Bath repository—friendly society at Cork—provision of fuel for the poor—APPENDIX, containing—advice to the poor—letter on the scarcity—twelve golden rules—treatment of the dying—cottage at Tadcaster—extract from the Bishop of London's sermon.

REPORT XII.

Account of a society for bettering the condition of the poor at Clapham—of Mr. Dale's cotton mills at New Lanerk in Scotland.—APPENDIX, containing—extracts from the Report of the establishment at Hamburgh—articles of agreement between several master chimney sweepers—on the duty and influence of the middle classes of society—on the condition of the poor—of the comforts of the poor—NOTES and additional observations—list of the committee—of subscribers—General Index to the second volume.

CONTENTS OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

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Introductory letter to the Third Volume, addressed to the Bishop of Durham—account of the relief granted at Mongewell, &c.—of the Cork Society—of a village shop at Greenford—of what is doing to prevent scarcity.

REPORT XIV.

Account of advantages of dibbling wheat—of a supply of milk at Stockton—of a village shop at Hanwell—of cottagers' gardens in Cambridgeshire—of the free chapel in West-street, St. Giles's—of supply of bread at Exmouth—of the advantages of the poor at Whelford.

REPORT XV.

Account of St. Giles's soup house—of a parish library for the poor—of a cottage at Shelford—female benefit club—parochial relief at Wendover—management of poor at Shipton Moyne—supply of food at St. Albans—establishment for the poor at Edinburgh.

REPORT XVI.

Account of Auckland Sunday society—of the Kendal schools—APPENDIX—charge to churchwardens—plan of Kendal schools of industry—reports of the fever institution—charge to masters of workhouses—effects of spirituous liquors—rules of Auckland female friendly society.

REPORT XVII.

Account of supply of blankets at Kendal—of the fever institution—of the London school for the blind—of Kendal charities—of the herring committee.—APPENDIX—rules of the Brentford society for bread and flour—certificate as to typhus—regulations as to infectious fever—American act for free schools.

REPORT XVIII.

Account of the Harborne penny club—of the schools at Weston—of the repository at Manchester—of the cancer institution.—APPENDIX, containing—account of the Paris asylum of maternity—of the western fisheries—of the converts at the Cape—of a cottager keeping a cow on arable land—case and opinion on the 43d of Elizabeth.—regulations for apprentices in cotton and woollen mills—NOTES and additional observations—general index to the Third Volume.